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Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the global geospatial information community, including in encouraging Member States to actively participate in the Expert Group.

Summary of the report

At its third session, held in July 2013, the Committee of Experts discussed the need to integrate geospatial information with statistics and other data; the programme review on developing a geospatial statistical framework, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on behalf of the Statistical Commission; and the decision on the issue adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, held from 26 February to 1 March 2013 (see E/2013/24, decision 44/101). The Committee of Experts acknowledged the importance of integrating geospatial information with statistics and endorsed the decision by the Statistical Commission to establish an expert group composed of representatives of both the statistical and geospatial communities to carry out the work on developing a statistical spatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

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The report provides information on the establishment of the Expert Group and summarizes the major issues discussed at its first meeting, held in New York from 30 October to 1 November 2013. It outlines the main recommendations to emerge from the meeting, including the proposal to organize an international conference on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, to be held in New York in August 2014 in conjunction with the fourth session of the Committee of Experts. It also summarizes some of the activities carried out since the establishment of the Expert Group, including the convening of an international workshop on integrating geospatial and statistical information, to be held in Beijing from 9 to 12 June 2014.